



TOWNSEND

Middlesex County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Townsend's rich history dates back to the seventeen hundreds; having been incorporated in 1732. The first mill of the town was built in 1733 in "Townsend Harbor". The pond at Townsend Harbor came into existence in 1734 when the dam was built for the mill. The Conant House, Grist Mill and Cooperage are places that can be visited today in the Harbor. The Boston and Keene, New Hampshire stagecoaches began to run in 1806, and passengers dined at the Joslinville Tavern which is now 519 Main Street.

Townsend is a member of the Middlesex Regional School District, and students from K-12 attends schools in the town. Many town and school sponsored activities are held at the High School and Hawthorne Brook Middle School facilities.

The Town Common is host to Fall Fairs and art shows as well as summer band concerts and Squannacook River provide opportunities for boating, fishing and swimming. Willard Brook State Park, which offers picnicking and swimming and Townsend State Forest both have excellent trails for hiking and cross country skiing.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

North central Massachusetts, bordered by Ashby on the west; Mason and Brookline, New Hampshire, on the north; Pepperell, Groton, and Shirley on the east; and Lunenburg on the south. Townsend is 9 miles north of Fitchburg, 33 miles north of Worcester, 42 miles northwest of Boston, and 210 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 33.11 sq. miles

Land Area: 32.87 sq. miles

Population: 8,496

Density: 258 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Clinton Station)

Normal temperature in January.....23.4°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.3°F

Normal annual precipitation.....47.0"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Townsend, Ashby, Shirley

Regional Planning Agency

Montachusett

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 597-1704

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Executive Secretary

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1732

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

Number	%
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Total Registered 4,464

Democrats 836 18.7 % Republicans 774 17.3 % Other parties 10 0.2 % Unenrolled Voters 2,844 63.7 %

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Townsend town, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	9,198	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	9,198	100.0
Male.....	4,561	49.6	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	108	1.2
Female.....	4,637	50.4	Mexican.....	28	0.3
Under 5 years.....	647	7.0	Puerto Rican.....	37	0.4
5 to 9 years.....	751	8.2	Cuban.....	4	-
10 to 14 years.....	890	9.6	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	39	0.4
15 to 19 years.....	787	8.6	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	9,090	98.8
20 to 24 years.....	440	4.8	White alone.....	8,914	96.9
25 to 34 years.....	1,018	11.1	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,826	19.9	Total population.....	9,198	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,562	17.0	In households.....	9,198	100.0
55 to 59 years.....	423	4.6	Householder.....	3,110	33.8
60 to 64 years.....	242	2.6	Spouse.....	2,099	22.8
65 to 74 years.....	359	3.9	Child.....	3,404	37.0
75 to 84 years.....	201	2.2	Own child under 18 years.....	2,651	28.8
85 years and over.....	62	0.7	Other relatives.....	295	3.2
Median age (years).....	35.4	(X)	Under 18 years.....	115	1.3
18 years and over.....	6,399	69.6	Nonrelatives.....	290	3.2
Male.....	3,131	34.0	Unmarried partner.....	155	1.7
Female.....	3,268	35.5	In group quarters.....	-	-
21 years and over.....	6,027	65.5	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	753	8.2	Noninstitutionalized population.....	-	-
65 years and over.....	622	6.8	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	241	2.6	Total households.....	3,110	100.0
Female.....	381	4.1	Family households (families).....	2,476	79.6
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	1,383	44.5
One race.....	9,119	99.1	Married-couple family.....	2,099	67.5
White.....	8,972	97.5	With own children under 18 years.....	1,164	37.4
Black or African American.....	67	0.7	Female householder, no husband present.....	279	9.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	21	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	167	5.4
Asian.....	21	0.2	Nonfamily households.....	634	20.4
Asian Indian.....	1	-	Householder living alone.....	501	16.1
Chinese.....	1	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	161	5.2
Filipino.....	1	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	1,460	46.9
Japanese.....	9	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	462	14.9
Korean.....	5	0.1	Average household size.....	2.96	(X)
Vietnamese.....	1	-	Average family size.....	3.34	(X)
Other Asian ¹	3	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	-	Total housing units.....	3,184	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	3,110	97.7
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	74	2.3
Samoan.....	1	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	1	-	occasional use.....	22	0.7
Some other race.....	96	0.4	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.3	(X)
Two or more races.....	79	0.9	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.6	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	3,110	100.0
White.....	9,044	98.3	Owner-occupied housing units.....	2,624	84.4
Black or African American.....	94	1.0	Renter-occupied housing units.....	486	15.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	55	0.6	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	3.12	(X)
Asian.....	37	0.4	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.09	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	-			
Some other race.....	57	0.6			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The principal highway of northern Worcester County is State Route 2, which runs across northern Massachusetts. State Route 140 and Interstate 190 connect the region to Worcester. The Springfield Terminal Railway line (the former Boston and Maine Railroad) parallels Route 2 and provides access to the network of intermodal facilities serving central and eastern Massachusetts.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Route 13 connecting Fitchburg with Nashua, New Hampshire, and State Route 119.

Rail

Commuter rail service to North Station, Boston, is available in neighboring Fitchburg. Travel time: 85-94 minutes; no MBTA parking.

Bus

Townsend is a member of the Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA). No fixed bus service is provided, but paratransit services are available for the elderly and disabled through LRTA's Road Runner program.

Other

The Fitchburg Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 4,511' and 3,502' long. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.